

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CAIRO 21601 01 OF 02 142128Z

ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12

OMB-01 TRSE-00 MCT-01 SSM-05 /103 W

-----043756 142148Z /70

O 142111Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2910

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION SINAI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 21601

FOR S/PRS AND PA

DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EG IS XF

SUBJECT: CAIRO CONFERENCE OPENS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CAIRO 21601 01 OF 02 142128Z

REF: CAIRO 21407

SUMMARY. CAIRO PREPARATORY CONFERENCE OPENED DEC 14 TO SENSATIONAL PLIC TREATMENT. PRESS REPORTS FOCUS ON PREVIOUS EVENING'S CONTACTS AND SADAT INSTRUCTIONS TO EGYPTIAN DELEGATION. IN SPITE OF SOBER OFFICIAL APPROACH AS CONFERENCE BEGINS, CAIRENES OBVIOUSLY FASCINATED BY

"THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK" -- ISRAELI DELEGATES AND JOURNALISTS -- WHO SEEM TO BE RECIPROCATING WITHOUT SHYNESS. END SUMMARY.

1. CAIRO CONFERENCE, TELECAST LIVE, OPENED DEC 14 TO TREMENDOUS MEDIA WARM-UP. PRESS PLAYED UP SADAT INSTRUCTIONS TO EGYPTIAN DELEGATE ABDEL MEGUID, WHO ACTING AS CHAIRMAN, TO KEEP IN MIND: (A) TOTAL WITHDRAWAL; (B) PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IS ESSENCE OF CONFLICT; (C) OVERALL SETTLEMENT MUST BE FRAMEWORK FOR TALKS; (D) SECURITY GUARANTEES FOR ALL PARTIES; AND (E) FLEXIBILITY OF CONFERENCE TO ENABLE OTHER PARTIES TO TAKE THEIR SEATS AT ANY SUBSEQUENT STAGE.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED EGYPT HAD INVITED ALL PARTIES NOT ON HAND TO RECONSIDER THEIR STANCE. INVITATIONS STILL VALID AND SEATS WOULD REMAIN AT CONFERENCE TABLE. (AS IN FACT THEY WERE WHEN CONFERENCE OPENED. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, NO NAME PLATES.) STRESSED AGAIN EGYPTIAN COMMITMENT TO RABAT RESOLUTIONS. SPOKESMAN CONTINUED THAT EGYPT HOPES CONFERENCE WILL MAKE SUFFICIENT HEADWAY TO ALLOW REPRESENTATION TO BE UPGRADED TO FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL.

3. PLO. DEL MEGUID, MEANWHILE, REPORTEDLY MET TWICE WITH ISRAELI DELEGATION EVENING DEC 13. FIRST SESSIONS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CAIRO 21601 01 OF 02 142128Z

DEVOTED TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR OPENING OF CONFERENCE AND SECOND "ON PARTICIPATION BY PALESTINIAN DELEGATION TO BE REPRESENTED BY PLO."

4. ISRAEL. COMMENTS BY BEN-ELISSAR, WHO PRESS REPORTED HAPPY HIS HOTEL ROOM OVERLOOKS PYRAMIDS, ALSO COVERED PROMINENTLY. SAID HIS DELEGATION WILL WORK TO RAISE REPRESENTATION TO FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL AT SUBSEQUENT STAGE. ISRAELI DELEGATION SPOKESMAN BATIR REPORTED AS SAYING HE "IMAGINED MOST ISSUES BEFORE CONFERENCE WILL BE SOLVED" BUT DECLINED MAKE ANY FURTHER STATEMENT UNTIL "TANGIBLE AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURE" HAD BEEN REACHED.

5. ANOTHER ISRAELI VOICE EMANATING IRONICALLY FROM OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER MISR, WAS THAT OF WELLKNOWN DOVE-JOURNALIST YURI AVNERI. ON ARRIVAL IN CAIRO LAST WEEK EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT EGYPTIANS' NATIONALIST TENDENCIES WOULD WIN OVER THEIR PAN-ARABIST LEANINGS IF EXTERNAL ATTACKS ON EGYPT WERE SUSTAINED. AVNERI BELIEVED THIS WOULD LEAD TO UNILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL, WHICH WOULD POSE DANGER TO REGION. AGREED THAT LASTING PEACE COULD BE ACHIEVED ONLY THROUGH TOTAL WITHDRAWAL

AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE.

6. U.S. JODY POWELL QUOTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS NOT CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT CAIRO CONFERENCE."HE STILL HOPES IT WILL SUCCEED". ATHERTON STATEMENT OF USG SUPPORT FOR CONFERENCE ALSO RECORDED. PRESS REPORTED HE MET WITH EGYPTIAN, ISRAELI AND UN DELEGATIONS AND DESCRIBED MEETINGS AS CORDIAL.

7. ATMOSPHERICS. ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PROCEDURAL DIFFERENCES VISIBLE BETWEEN LINES, WE STRUCK BY CONTRAST BETWEEN OFFICIAL AND POPULAR REACTIONS TO CONFERENCE. GOE AND CAIRO PRESS PLAY SOLEMNLY REITERATED EGYPTIAN PRINCIPLES FOR PEACE, DESIRE FOR OVERALL SETTLEMENT, AND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 CAIRO 21601 01 OF 02 142128Z

COMMITMENT TO PALESTINIANS. EDITORIALS WERE DEVOTED TO GRAVE DISCUSSION OF HISTORICITY OF CAIRO CONFERENCE, OF RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL PARTIES FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS AND OF "WORLD EXPECTATION" THAT U.S. WILL PLACE "ITS FRIEND ISRAEL ON CORRECT ROAD TO PEACE".

8. ON UNOFFICIAL LEVEL, PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE SEEMS TO BE PROGRESSING MUCH MORE RAPIDLY. EGYPTIANS FASCINATED BY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CAIRO 21601 02 OF 02 142132Z
ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12
OMB-01 TRSE-00 MCT-01 SSM-05 /103 W
-----043825 142151Z /70

O 142111Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2911

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 21601

FOR S/PRS AND PA

DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI
WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

SIGHT OF EL AL PLANE PARKED AT CAIRO AIRPORT. ISRAELI
JOURNALISTS HAVE EXCITED SIMILAR FRIENDLY FASCINATION
AROUND TOWN, CAIRENES REACTING AS THEY MIGHT TO NEW KID
ON THE BLOCK. TOWN ITSELF HAS ASSUMED NEARLY FESTIVE AIR.
PRINCIPAL STREETS DAILY FESTOONED WITH MORE BANNERS PRO-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CAIRO 21601 02 OF 02 142132Z

CLAIMING LOYALTY TO SADAT AND WELCOMING VISITORS TO CAIRO
CONFERENCE (ALTHOUGH ISRAELIS NOT MENTIONED BY NAME).
ISRAELIS, JUDGING FROM NUMEROUS JOURNALISTS IN TOWN, ALSO
TREMENDOUSLY BUOYED. THOSE ON HAND HAVE BEEN FILING
STORIES IN ISRAEL CONTINUOUSLY BY TELEPHONE, TOURING
CITY AND WEARING DELIGHTED GRINS. THEY GREETED COLLEAGUES
ARRIVING DEC 13 AT AIRPORT WITH LOUD, JOVIAL EXCHANGES IN
HEBREW. ONE WAS HEARD TO QUIP "THERE GOES THE NEIGHBOR-
HOOD*" GOE HAS ATTEMPTED TO KEEP TREATMENT OF ARRIVAL
IN LOW KEY. NO FLAGS WERE FLYING AT AIRPORT OR AT MENA
HOUSE HOTEL UNTIL OPENING SESSION OF CONFERENCE. AT
AIRPORT, HOWEVER, EL AL CREW PROMPTLY BEDECKED THEIR AIR-
CRAFT, ALREADY BEARING LEGENDS "SALAAM" AND "SHALOM", WITH
ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN FLAGS. LOOKING AHEAD IN NEW
SPIRIT, ISRAELI TV JOURNALIST YURI EHUD HAS APPLIED FOR
THREE YEAR RESIDENCE PERMIT TO REPORT FROM CAIRO.

9. ONLY SOUR NOTE WAS BOMB SCARE AT JOLIE VILLE HOTEL,
WHERE HUNDREDS OF JOURNALISTS LODGED, NIGHT OF DEC 13.
SOME SLEPT THROUGH INCIDENT BUT MOST OTHERS WERE
EVICTED INTO DAMP CAIRO NIGHT FOR FORTY-FIVE MINUTES UNTIL
SCARE EXPOSED AS HOAX. WITH RECENT MURDER OF BRITISH
JOURNALIST, HOWEVER, BIT OF ANXIETY MAY HAVE BEEN INTRO-
DUCED. EILTS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING PROCEEDINGS, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO21601
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770465-1142
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771259/aaaabxhs.tel
Line Count: 223
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6635d504-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAIRO 21407
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 244708
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAIRO CONFERENCE OPENS UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PGOV, EG, IS, XF
To: STATE ALEXANDRIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6635d504-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009